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OK, so technically Thursday was "Take Your Daughters to Work Day" on Capitol Hill.

But since Congressman John Adler is the father of four boys - none of whom he said is particularly interested in his job in Washington - the freshman representative opted to host two young cancer survivors from Burlington County instead.

"My sons think my job is boring, but these guys have been great," Adler, D-3rd of Cherry Hill, said on a conference call Thursday afternoon during a break in the day's activities with 8-year-old Ryan Venazio and 16-year-old Jordan King.

The boys' itinerary included tours of the Capitol, Supreme Court and Library of Congress; a news conference with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi; an event with Olympic speed skater Apolo Ohno and swimmer Dara Torres; and lunch and voting sessions with Adler.

Jordan was also expected to tour the West Wing of the White House.

Adler said he agreed to host the boys and their families in Washington for the day after hearing their survival stories from the American Cancer Society's Burlington County chapter.

Ryan, a Mount Laurel resident and student at the Springville Elementary School, survived a form of liver cancer that required six rounds of chemotherapy and a nine-hour surgery to remove a softball-size tumor and 75 percent of his liver. He recently celebrated his seventh year of cancer remission and is active with the American Cancer Society and the Relay for Life race.

He's also a proud New Jersey resident, evident from the state flag he carried throughout his Washington visit.

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"He's waving it right now," Adler said on the conference call.

Jordan lives in Willingboro and attends Moorestown Friends School. He was diagnosed with lymphoma two years ago and, after undergoing treatment, has been in remission since March 2009.

Jordan said he participated in his school's mock political convention two years ago, voting for Barack Obama, whom Adler also endorsed.

The congressman put both boys and Ryan's older brother, Joe, to work during the voting session by having them each vote on his behalf. During the session, they also saw the House vote in favor of stiffer sanctions against Iran because of that country's continued research and development of nuclear arms.

"Our country is at risk and the world is at risk," Adler said.

Both boys said they enjoyed the voting session and seeing the inner workings of the U.S. government. Jordan said he planned to speak with Adler about the importance of the government's support of cancer research.

Adler said he hears frequently from constituents and is an advocate.

"I'm a strong supporter. I have plenty of people come down and talk about the need for more scientific research so people can live long, healthy lives," he said.